

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1297

By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Representative Delores R. Gresham for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body should honor those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with the utmost probity, and whose efforts during their time in office were dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to their district and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Delores Gresham is one such distinguished public servant who served both her constituency and this legislative body with honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gresham has been a highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of House District 94, and she served her constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at her elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gresham's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the good people of House District 94 evinced their great faith in the political and governmental capabilities of Delores Gresham by electing her as their representative, a position to which she dedicated herself admirably; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the House of Representatives during the 103rd through 105th General Assemblies, Delores Gresham was prominent in her role as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always voted her conscience; and

WHEREAS, possessing a thirst for knowledge, Representative Gresham received her bachelor's degree from the University of the Incarnate Word, her Master of Science degree from George Washington University, and her Master of Arts degree from Loyola University; and

WHEREAS, Delores Gresham answered Uncle Sam's patriotic call to duty, valiantly serving her country as a member of the United States Marine Corps, retiring with honor as a Lieutenant Colonel; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gresham was an active and dynamic participant in the legislative process and earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues for her outstanding contributions and service during the 103rd, 104th, and 105th General Assemblies, during which she astutely served as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, the House Education Committee, and as Vice-Chairperson of the House Higher Education Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, a woman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of leadership and citizenship, Delores Gresham has given her time and energies to many community, civic, and charitable organizations, including serving as past Director of Fayette Haywood Enterprise Community and the National Cattlemen's Association; past President of the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce, Tennessee Cattlemen's Association, and Fayette Cares; and a board member of the Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation, Fayette County Forestry Association, Fayette County Foster Care Review, and Local Workforce Investment; and

WHEREAS, a talented, astute, and productive professional, Representative Gresham has served as a distinguished member of the Fayette County and Tipton County Livestock Associations, the Tennessee Farm Bureau, Hardeman County Right to Life, Fayette County Right to Life, Tipton County Heart to Heart, South Tipton Chamber of Commerce, Fayette County Chamber of Commerce, Hardeman County Chamber of Commerce, Oakland Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Tennessee Firearms Association; she is also a life member of the National Rifle Association and the National Skeet Shooting Association; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gresham is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Delores Gresham has received numerous awards and honors throughout her career, including the WestStar award, the C.P. Boyd Award, the 2005 Community Builder Award from Oakland Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the 2006 Community Service Award from the Whiteville Community. She was also named as Fayette County's Citizen of the Year in

2000, the Southwest Tennessee Development District's Legislator of the Year in 2003, the Tennessee School Board Association's Legislator of the Year in 2005, and the Memphis Area Association of Governments and Southwest Tennessee Development District's Legislator of the Year in 2007; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Delores Gresham is an active and devout member of St. Phillip the apostle Catholic Church, where she faithfully serves on the Pastoral Council; and

WHEREAS, her many his many civic and professional accomplishments aside, Delores Gresham is fortunate to share both love and companionship with her loyal husband, James; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gresham is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Representative Delores Gresham for her meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly and commend her for her countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of the 94th House District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.